

Washington, DC - Congressman John Adler, a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, announced today that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) ruled that Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst will be included in the higher New York locality pay. Congressman Adler has consistently voiced his support for this change.

"It's essential that we support our Joint Base," said Congressman Adler, who represents Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst. "This change represents a significant step forward for the federal civilian employees who live and work in our neighborhoods and on our bases. I will continue to work on this issue to ensure a smooth transition. We need to keep these jobs in New Jersey."

"This announcement confirms that we are taking the right path to success," said Colonel Gina Grosso, Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst commander. "Ensuring equal pay is vital to the health of our civilian work force, and the passing of this rule signifies the importance of our civilians to the missions located here at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. This rule brings flexibility; we can now effectively consolidate our civilian employees as needed without impacting their pay."

The new Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst is scheduled to be fully operational on October 1, 2009. This tri-service installation is unique because it consists of installations from two separate locality pay jurisdictions. Therefore, civilians working the same job on different areas of the joint base were paid different wages. This new rule is an important step towards ensuring that all federal civilian employees on the Joint Base will be paid equally for the same job. The locality pay change will be applicable as of October 11, 2009.

Earlier this summer, Congressman Adler released a report revealing the pay discrepancy on the Joint Base. In the weeks following, Congressman Adler passed a Sense of Congress, included in the National Defense Authorization Act that sent a clear message to the Office of Personnel Management that all federal civilian employees on the Joint Base should be paid equally under the higher locality pay. Congressman Adler, joined by the entire New Jersey congressional delegation, also sent a letter last month to President Obama calling for all federal civilian employees on Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst to be paid equally.

